

## Provisional Vital Statistics for December 2004

**Live births** increased in December as 6,211 Missouri babies were born compared with 5,848 one year earlier. The cumulative 12 month birth rate of 13.6 is the highest rate since 2000.

**Deaths** increased slightly in December as 4,273 Missourians died compared with 4,248 in December 2003. Cumulative deaths for the 12 months ending with December are virtually the same as the previous year.

The **Natural increase** in December was 1,938 (6,211 births minus 4,273 deaths). For the 12 months ending with December, the natural increase rose 6.9 percent from 21,495 to 22,977.

**Marriages** increased in December, but decreased by 11.7 percent for the 12 months ending with December. The primary reason for the large decrease was irregular reporting.

**Dissolutions of marriage** decreased for both December and the 12 months ending with December. The provisional marriage to divorce ratio for 2004 was 1.66 compared with 1.86 in 2003.

**Infant deaths** increased in December but decreased for the 12 months ending with December. The provisional 2004 infant death rate of 7.5 per 1,000 was 4 percent lower than the 2003 rate of 7.8.

### PROVISIONAL RESIDENT VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE STATE OF MISSOURI

<u>December</u>					<u>12 months ending with December</u>									
<u>Item</u>	<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		<u>Number</u>				<u>Rate*</u>					
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	
<b>Live Births.....</b>	5,848	6,211	12.0	13.1	75,290	75,167	76,690	78,242	13.6	13.4	13.2	13.4	13.6	
<b>Deaths .....</b>	4,248	4,273	8.7	9.0	54,601	55,636	55,195	55,265	9.8	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.6	
<b>Natural increase ....</b>	1,600	1,938	3.3	4.1	20,689	19,531	21,495	22,977	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.8	4.0	
<b>Marriages .....</b>	2,126	2,372	4.4	5.0	42,086	41,552	41,295	36,462	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.2	6.3	
<b>Dissolutions .....</b>	1,813	1,563	3.7	3.3	23,458	22,593	22,166	21,919	4.5	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.8	
<b>Infant deaths .....</b>	41	63	7.0	10.1	555	638	599	586	7.2	7.4	8.5	7.8	7.5	
<b>Population base.....</b> (in thousands)	...	...	5,719	5,755	...	...	...	...	5,595	5,643	5,680	5,719	5,755	

\* Rates for live births, deaths, natural increase, marriages and dissolutions are computed on the number per 1,000 estimated population. The infant death rate is based on the number of infant deaths per 1000 live births. Rates are adjusted to account for varying lengths of monthly reporting periods.

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